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September 23, 1904 1952

Saltmarsh, September 3, for Pensacola, and British steamship Wearside, for Norfolk via Perth Amboy, September 3.

The health conditions here remain about the same, the prevailing disease being malarial.

Report from Veracruz—Inspection of vessels—Yellow fever—Lower death rate from mosquito-borne diseases.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Lumsden reports, September 6, as follows:

During the week ended September 3, 1904, seven vessels bound for United States ports were inspected and granted bills of health. One vessel, viz, the Dutch steamship *Barendrecht*, bound for Eastport (Port Eads), La., was fumigated with sulphur dioxid and given a certificate on September 1.

During the week there were recorded in the city of Veracruz 37 deaths (59.2 per 1,000, annual death rate) from all causes, including 2 from pernicious fever, 2 from malarial cachexia, 2 from hepatitis, 1 from dysentery, 3 from gastro-enteritis, and 12 from tuberculosis.

Fourteen new cases of yellow fever were reported—4 on August 29, 5 on August 30, 3 on September 2, and 2 on September 3. All of the cases reported during the week developed among the occupants of San Juan de Ulua fortress. Vessels at anchor in the harbor frequently lie within 200 or 300 feet of this fortress, and during the afternoon hours particularly to leeward of it; therefore, the likelihood of contaminated mosquitoes from Ulua reaching and infecting persons on board these vessels becomes apparent. I inclose a copy of a circular letter relative to this matter which I have sent to the several steamship companies most concerned.

During the month of August there were reported to have occurred in the city of Vera Cruz 21 cases of yellow fever with 1 death. Of the cases 16 were among the occupants of San Juan de Ulua fortress. For the corresponding month of 1903 there were reported 249 cases with 84 deaths.

During the four weeks ended August 29, 1903, there were recorded in the city of Vera Cruz 252 deaths from all causes, including 85 from yellow fever, 16 from pernicious fever, and 14 from remittent fever, while for the corresponding four weeks (ended August 28) of 1904 there were recorded 118 deaths from all causes, including only 1 from yellow fever, 5 from pernicious fever, and 2 from remittent fever. Thus, it is evident that the remarkable lowering of the death rate for the present year can be almost entirely accounted for by the smaller number of deaths caused by two of the mosquito-borne diseases, yellow fever and malaria.

Circular relative to precautions against yellow fever infection on vessels bound for the United States.

[Inclesure.]

U. S. Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, Veracruz, Mexico, September 5, 1904.

To masters, agents, and owners of vessels, Port of Veracruz, Mexico.

Gentlemen: In view of the fact that during the week ending September 3, 1904, 14 cases of yellow fever were officially reported to